

Jimmy Hoffa:

—early morning to make a speech or to talk to you while I have so seldom the opportunity of talking to the ladies whose husbands belong to our unions, that I just want to take this opportunity of a five-minute recap of where we've come/where we've gone to.

I think that all the ladies who are sitting that have the opportunity to come to Washington, who have the opportunity during the course of the summer to have their vacations, go where they will, with sufficient money in your pocket to enjoy yourself, be able to provide for your children, have a feeling of confidence that you have pension welfare funds, now eyeglass and teeth benefits. That sitting here and talking amongst yourselves, many of you who have never met each other before, must now realize that it's a very small, small world, and whatever the people in Michigan want, the people in Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, or up in Washington, DC, or Seattle, Washington, or up in Maine want the same thing, and they want it for a very simple reason.

We have today a little black box. Almost every home, no matter how poor it is or no matter how rich it is has a little black box that brings to you from all over this world almost in an instant after it happened the events that are taking place worldwide. The same little box shows you what is being manufactured for the rich and for the poor. The same little box excites the imagination of those who never before, living in small towns or isolated areas that cared or even knew what went outside of their own towns. TV.

This has excited the imagination of the young people, the old people, and everybody in this world to where today it isn't only the United States that want the same basic principles of a decent living, but the entire wide, wide world. And as you read the turmoil taking place all over this country you must realize that it's the young people that are carrying this fight. If you look over in Korea, no later than Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of this week, or look over where Ben Bella and Egypt, who's carrying the fight? Young people.

Young people that will never be satisfied nor content with what we accepted rightfully as being an improvement. Their minds are imaginative, and they have a right to be. Because this country can produce all of the needs that we have in the entire United States in any six month period that wants to produce it. We have in this country the greatest natural resources of any country in the world. And yet unfortunately there are over 20 million people in this country who are going day after day about their business with insufficient money to make both ends meet.

And sitting here yourself, even though your husband brings home a nice paycheck, what happens on Monday morning? Monday morning or no later than Tuesday, yet you've taken care of last week's bills and you've bought the groceries and everything. You reach around, instead of having large dollars, you have change and a few dollars put away, waiting for the next paycheck.

And so we must realize and recognize that prosperity that we enjoy today is of a temporary nature. A temporary nature to the extent that if anything should happen, whether it be in Vietnam, whether it be in the Dominican Republic, or anywhere in the world, that we should suddenly have peace, we would have a depression. It's a terrible thing to talk about in regards to having to kill people, bomb, build airplanes for destruction, tanks, to be able to have prosperity. But if you look around this country you will realize that all of the prosperity that we have enjoyed since 1938 have been based upon either war or preparation for war. So you have a responsibility as mothers to go home and preserve, not the question of prosperity by war, but prosperity by the legislative actions of the halls of Congress.

And many of these nitwits that we have for representatives – and they are nitwits – who come into here representing their various districts that have no idea of what is happening in the United States. Most of the Congress of the United States are either lawyers, accountants, or they inherited the job from their father, or they're multimillionaires that can buy any election they care to go into. Very few of them – very few of them understand what is happening in America today. And when you hear Sid testify this morning on 14B you will see all the hate in this country, to where they will actually bear their fangs, because they realize that there's only one thing in this country that can hold together the prosperity that we have, and that's labor unions.

Labor unions, who are the only single force in America that has to produce for the workers of America or they're voted out of office. Labor unions are the closest single solitary group to their leaders than anything in America. And they pass restrictive labor laws every single day in Congress or the Supreme Court of the United States. So when you go home, go home with a stern, firm determination that you're not going to talk about this trip with meeting a congressman or a senator, or living in the International Hotel, or taking a tour. But talk about the things that most people don't want to hear. And it's surprising how many people refuse to talk about problems. Everybody wants to put their head in the sand

and hope against hope that something will happen they will not have problems. And this is ridiculous.

So when you go home, yes, talk to your family about your trip, talk to your friends. But get in the one basic principle, do you want to give up what you have? And keep hammering that into their head, because the four weeks' vacation, health and welfare, pension, eyeglasses, teeth, wages, seniority, arbitration, grievance machinery, are the basic reason that you people can afford to be here, the basic reason when you go home you don't go home to a two-room flat, you don't go home to a broken-down home; you go home to a decent home. Or there may be 15, 20-year payments on it, but your husband in all probability will be at the airport to pick you up in a reasonably respectable automobile. Now that he hasn't saw you for a week, probably take you out over the weekend and give you something to eat at a decent restaurant.

[Laughter]

Jimmy Hoffa:

Now I'm sure you want to keep that, so I would urge you that don't let happen to you what I see happening around this country. You could be with me as I travel down into Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Carolinas, if you could travel with me down into those areas and look at the poverty, the misery that takes place in those states, then you would say to yourself "How lucky I am that I live in an industrial state like Michigan. How lucky I am that my husband belongs to a union that's sufficiently strong and coordinated to get for my family and myself the benefits we have."

Of course you can't travel with me because there isn't that much time. But I travel, travel all over this United States, into the most poverty-stricken areas of the United States. And I hope and trust what I witnessed in 1932, when I became an organizer, and I was an organizer 16 years of age, and I never see again in the state of Michigan or the city of Detroit. And so it's up to you.

Take a fellow like Griffin, who was here the other night: arrogant. Arrogant. When I disagree with you I reserve the right to vote against you. Who the...gave him that right? Who gave him a right to decide what's right for union people? Why can't the union people decide what's good for them? They're the ones that have to live under it.

And so I would hope that all of you – that many of you recognize this, that a Griffin is just as dangerous to our way of life and our

community and our prosperity as one of the Southern senators from Arkansas, like McClellan. Just as dangerous. Little more educated, little more smooth, but just as dangerous. So the rank-and-file members who are here from all over the state of Michigan, whose husbands work – some of you belong to the union yourself, work yourself, take this trip. Take it, keep it in your mind, and go home and determine when you come back next year you will have did something about the character that told you, "I don't know. I haven't read the bill. I can't tell you what I think of it."

How do you think my office would run? What do you think would happen if 1,800,000 members to 900 locals, when they call my office or one of the departments in our building and had a serious strike or a serious problem, said, "Well, we didn't read about it. We don't know anything about it. Call back six months from now." What do you think would happen to those unions? They'd fall apart. And that's what will happen here.

So go home, work, fight, preserve the way of life we have, and alert your neighbors, friends, and relatives as to who should remain and who shouldn't, and then decide for yourself is it worth it. Thank you.

[Applause]

Male 1:

Thanks. Thanks, Jimmy. Now, girls, what we're going to do this morning is we're going to take pictures by local unions with Mr. Hoffa outside. As I call out the local unions you'll go outside, I'll stand at the door. Please remain seated till your local union is called and get up in a body and walk out. Quickly get in a group; we haven't much time.

After you've had your picture taken you will go to the buses and be prepared to go up to the hill for to hear the testimony on 14B and the bonding bill. Now we'll need this cooperation from you so that we can't take everybody out all at once, and we can do this very rapidly. The buses and sipkins will be up on the hill; we'll bring you back in plenty of time to go up to your rooms and get your personal belongings and leave the key at the desk on your way to the buses to go to the airport. The first plane will leave here for the airport – those on the first plane – at 11:45. Those on the second plane will leave at 12:45.

Now the first locals to go out, 299. Everybody from 299.

Jay:

[Inaudible]

Male 1: What? Wait a second. Wait a minute. All right, hold on a minute.

Jay: *[Inaudible]*

Male 1: I thought you told me to go.

Jay: No, no, there's just one thing I wanted to ask about. Is it making a difference for the luggage, which plane the luggage gets on?

Male 1: Yes, it does. They've got it marked. They're told to mark it "plane 1" and "plane 2."

Jay: Number one and number two. Then the second thing is if everybody before they leave here on their bus, I want to be sure their luggage is out by their rooms so the _____ can _____.

Male 1: All right, now listen, if you haven't brought your luggage down, you'll have to have it down. Has anybody forgot to bring their luggage or put it by the elevator on your floor? Let's not have any baggage here when we get back to Detroit.

299, first picture.

Female: 299.

Male 1: 299. Second picture will be 337. Please stand out of the way and allow the group to formulate whose picture's being taken. Stand back.

Female: 299 only.

Male 1: 299 only first. 337 next. And then 247. And, Jay, you pick it up while I go out with 299, will you?

[End of Audio]